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Re Administration of Criminal Law in California.—The Berkeley Den of Lions at its weekly luncheon, December 30th, 1920, held at the Hotel White-cotton in the City of Berkeley, unanimously passed the following resolution:

That, whereas, a great wave of crime is sweeping the country and that the same should be curbed and to the end that a more speedy, accurate judgment may be meted out to the perpetrators, it was resolved as follows:

"That in all cases of felony or misdemeanor punishable by a prison sentence, the question of responsibility be not submitted to the jury, which will thus be called upon to determine only that the offense was committed by the defendant.

"That the disposition and treatment (including punishment) of all such midemeanants and felons, i. e., the sentence imposed, be based upon a study of the individual offender by properly qualified and impartial experts co-operating with the courts.

"That provisions be made permitting the transfer of such misdemeanants and felons at any time after conviction from one institution to another affording a different kind of treatment upon the presentation of evidence of the needs for such action satisfactory to the court which passed sentence.

"That no maximum term be set to any sentence.

"That no parole or probation be granted without suitable psychiatric examination.

"That in considering applications for pardons and commutation careful attention be given to reports of qualified experts showing the applicant's mental age and mental stability and that in drafting statutes determining or defining juvenile delinquency, mental age and mental stability, within reasonable limits, be regarded as of importance with the calendar age of the delinquent.

"It is recommended that an act be introduced to supplement existing laws providing for the establishment and maintenance of municipal courts of record and defining the jurisdiction of such courts. That the act follow the language of the act initiated by the Detroit Citizen's League. The purpose of the act, as stated by the proponents, is as follows: 'To modernize our city courts so that they will measure up to the needs of our rapidly growing city.'

"The American Judicature Society in discussing the proposed change says that, 'If adopted by the people, Detroit will be the foremost city in America in the administration of criminal laws.'"

A recent statistical table from the Superintendent of the Detroit Police Department, indicates that crime has actually decreased in some cases as much as 66%. In fact, comparisons for the months of November, 1919, and November, 1920, indicate that burglary was reduced 66%, burglary of business places reduced 51%, highway robbery reduced 61% and pickpockets reduced 53%. Considering the fact that there is a crime wave in nearly every city in this country, this showing of Detroit is a remarkable one, especially when we further take into consideration the fact that Detroit has an unusually large unemployment problem.—From August Vollmer, Berkeley, California.

National Association of Magistrates (England).—The purpose of the National Association is to keep magistrates informed of current thought and practice on all matters affecting their duties, more especially on the non-legal side.

Much excellent work done by benches throughout the kingdom possesses a national value, rather than merely a local one, the problems involved being